

# DDS DENTAL NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

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*Wanda Nelson, Dan Micari, Izabella Pulvermacher, Elaine Colangelo and Pamela Young*

This year the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) convened for their annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. The AADMD was created in 2002 to provide a forum for healthcare professionals who provide clinical care to individuals who have neurodevelopmental disorders and intellectual disabilities (ND/ID). The mission of the AADMD is to improve the overall health of people with ND/ID through patient care, teaching, research and advocacy.

AADMD is resolved to assist in reforming the current system of healthcare so that no person with ND/ID is left without access to quality health services. One of their many goals is to prepare medical and dental clinicians to face the unique challenges in caring for

people with ND/ID. With this in mind, the AADMD generously opened their doors to Connecticut professionals who provide treatment to individuals with developmental disabilities.

During the week prior to the conference, Dr. David Fray, DDS, Chief of the Developmental Disabilities Division in the Hawaii Department of Health and a Vice President for Education at AADMD, met with specialists from the Department of Developmental Services including Commissioner Terrence W. Macy and Deputy Commissioner Kathryn DuPree. Dr. Fray also toured the UConn Health Center and lectured to the dental residents and faculty. He graciously shared his expertise and passion in the field of Developmental Disabilities and oral health throughout our state.

The week culminated on Saturday, May 14 during a seminar that was opened to all medical and dental professionals who provide treatment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This was a rare occasion where doctors, dentists, nurses, dental hygienists, and students were in the same room sharing their knowledge with each other. The session was opened by Dr. Seth Keller, president of AADMD. This opening was followed by Dr. Matt Holder, the Executive Director, who shared the AADMD's Developmental Medicine Curriculum Project. Dr. Terry Dickenson got everyone involved in the "Implication Wheel" and how to look at issues from "outside the box". Connecticut was represented by Dr. Ruth Goldblatt and Izabella Pulvermacher who described the services that Connecticut provides to the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AADMD honored Connecticut champions who have dedicated their careers to providing medical and dental care to people with developmental disabilities. Among the honorees from DDS were: Elaine Colangelo, Sherri Fucci, Dan Micari, former commissioner Peter O'Meara, Izabella Pulvermacher, Dr. Steven Stanley, Pamela Young, Betty Zoubek, and Dr. Gregory DeCandia.

## Connecticut Dental Health Partnership

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP) is an organization that administers the dental portion of the Medicaid, HUSKY A and HUSKY B programs in Connecticut. CTDHP administers the dental benefits for the Department of Social Services (DSS) healthcare programs which cover more than 540,000 residents in Connecticut. The goal of CDHP is to increase the number of individuals receiving dental care in HUSKY/Medicaid coverage. They provide a call center and care coordination for their clients. The call center will help with locating a participating dentist, schedule an appointment and transportation.

Marty Milkovic, CTDHP Director of Care Coordination and Outreach, and his associates have met with over 200 DDS case managers and nurses from the private sectors to let them know about the CTDHP, their benefits and how they can better serve DDS consumers.

The call center can be reached at 1-866-420-2924 Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. CTDHP is most effective when Medicaid is current and the Medicaid ID number is readily available.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS—SPECIAL SMILES

UConn dental students and their faculty joined with local dental hygienists to participate in this year's Special Olympics. The Special Smiles Program is conducted during the annual summer games. Each athlete had an opportunity to be fitted for a personal mouth guard, have their teeth and mouth examined, receive a fluoride treatment and learn how to take care of their teeth. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for the athletes and the dental community to work together to improve the oral health of the Special Olympians.



*UConn Dental Students and Lewis Pulvermacher*